

Message Text

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15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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P R 140810 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0067

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0632

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LY US

SUBJECT: PNG OF ADCM MARTHINSEN: RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER
ACTION

REF: STATE 086514; TRIPOLI 0605

1. NOTE PREPARED PER STATE REFTEL PARA 1, AND DATED
MAY 10, DELIVERED TO MFA MORNING OF MAY 11 (COPY BEING
POUCHED CLARK AF/ N). FACT THAT MARTHINSEN DEPARTED
SAME DAY RECORDED IN ROUTINE NOTE TO MFA DATED MAY 13.
IN ADDITION, IN TELEPHONING PROTOCOL ABOUT ANOTHER MATTER,
CHARGE MAY 13 MENTIONED IN INCIDENTAL WAY THAT
MARTHINSEN HAD LEFT MAY 11. ALSO TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO
SAY THAT MARTHINSEN' S FAMILY WILL STAY HERE TILL END
OF THE MONTH.

2. NOW THAT THESE MATTERS HAVE BEEN BUTTONED UP,
WOULD LIKE TO SUMMARIZE WHERE WE STAND. COUNTRYMAN IS
EXCLUDED, IN EFFECT. YET IT WOULD PROBABLY BE UNWISE
TO TAKE RETALIATORY STEPS ON HIS ACCOUNT AT THIS STAGE.
IT IS NOT LIKELY BUT CONCEIVABLE THAT HE WILL BE ADMITTED
AT A LATER STAGE AS A RESULT OF GENERAL PRESSURES
DEVELOPING IN THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS (SEE SEPTELS),
PRESSURES WHICH ARE BOUND TO MOUNT AS THE VACATION
SEASON NEARS.

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3. WITH REGARD TO MARTHINSEN' S CASE, WE HAVE DONE THE FOLLOWING: WE HAVE MADE STIFF PROTESTS BOTH ORALLY AND IN WRITING. WE HAVE SPILLED THE BEANS TO THE PRESS. WE HAVE APPEALED TO THE DEAN OF THE CORPS AND HE HAS TRIED TO HELP (SEPTEL). WE HAVE STIMULATED UNPRECEDENTED NATO SOLIDARITY AT THE TRIPOLI FRONT, PRECISELY BECAUSE WE MADE A DOUBLE SACRIFICE FOR THE COMMON CAUSE (TRIPOLI 0624). AND WE HAVE CONTINUED TO BE TOO BUSY TO GRANT VISAS TO VIRTUALLY ALL LIBYAN APPLICANTS WHETHER OR NOT ELIGIBLE AND IN RECEIPT OF FAVORABLE ADVISORY OPINIONS .

4. TO COMPLICATE THE SITUATION, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS THROWN ALL OUR POLICIES WITH REGARD TO LIBYA INTO MELTING POT. NO DOUBT THE EXPULSION OF MARTHINSEN CANNOT BE CONSIDERED IN ISOLATION. I SUBMIT, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS NO WAY TO CONSIDER IT EXCEPT AS A SLAP AT THE USG AND AT ONE OF ITS OFFICERS WHO WAS SIMPLY DOING, WITH ALL DUE PROPRIETY, A LEGITIMATE JOB.

5. THEREFORE, BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD RETALIATE FOR THE EXPULSION OF MARTHINSEN BY SOME ACT THAT AT LEAST SYMBOLICALLY HURTS THE LARG AND THAT CAN BE DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM. MOST APPROPRIATE COURSE WOULD BE TO PNG SOMEONE AT LARG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. DEPARTMENT MAY BE IN BETTER POSITION TO KNOW WHOM TO SELECT. HOWEVER, SUGGEST FOR CONSIDERATION THE NCO WHO, LAST WE HEARD, WAS IN CHARGE OF THAT EMBASSY' S FMS PROGRAM. THAT PROGRAM IS AN ANACHRONISM AND AN ANOMALY ANYWAY, AND SHOULD BE WOUND UP BEFORE THE LIBYAN/ EGYPTIAN MERGER OF SEPT 1. AMONG MARTHINSEN' S DUTIES WAS HANDLING OF RESIDUAL FMS MATTERS HERE. HAVE NO INTENTION OF TOUCHING THEM WITH A 10 FOOT POLE HEREAFTER.

6. UNDERSTAND THAT DEPARTMENT SIMPLY DOES NOT RETALIATE IN THIS WAY FOR THE PNGING OF OUR PERSONNEL EXCEPT BY EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, SITUATION HERE NOW IS FAR WORSE THAN IN EASTERN EUROPE. ADVANTAGES OF RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION ARE THAT WE WOULD GET RCC ATTENTION, AT LEAST FLEETINGLY, AND SHOW THAT THE USG MEANS BUSINESS WHEN WE TALK ABOUT RECIPROCITY. POSSIBLE DISADVANTAGE IS CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT RCC WOULD START CHAIN REACTION BY PNGING ANOTHER OF OUR AMERICANS. I DO NOT THINK SO, BUT IF DEPT CONCERNED ON THIS POINT, THERE MAY BE A WAY AROUND IT: UNDERSTAND THE NCO IN QUESTION HAS NOT BEEN NOTIFIED TO THE DEPT. HE IS PERHAPS THUS AN " UNREGISTERED FOREIGN AGENT" AND INS COULD TAKE ACTION AGAINST HIM ANYWAY, WITHOUT GOING THE PNG ROUTE.

7. IF ABOVE NOT PERSUASIVE TO THE DEPT, I AM PREPARED
TO TELL LARG NOW THAT USG WILL NOT APPROVE EXPORT
LICENSES FOR THE 8 LOCKHEED C-130' S. HAVE BEEN ON
RECORD FOR MANY MONTHS AS OPPOSED TO THEIR DELIVERY.
MOREOVER AM IN FAVOR OF TELLING LARG THE REAL REASONS
WHY. (ROGER CHANNEL LETTER TO BLAKE OF APRIL 18).
ADVANTAGEOF THIS COURSE IS THAT IT WOULD CERTAINLY
GET RCC ATTENTION, PROMPTLY. DISADVANTAGES INCLUDE
FACT IT MIXES APPLES AND ORANGES AND THUS MIGHT
OBSCURE THE MOST IMPORTANT REASONS FOR OUR DENIAL OF
ANY MORE SUCH PLANES.
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